



90839

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application

Applicant: Bertram Achtner

Serial No.: 10/690,347

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: **ZOOM LENS**

) I hereby certify that this correspondence is
) being deposited with the United Postal
) Service as first class mail in an envelope
) addressed to: Mail Stop FEE
) AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents,
) P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450,
) on April 8, 2004

Georg T. Shultz

Gerald T. Shekleton Reg. No. 27,466

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, a list of documents is disclosed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that may be material to the examination of this application. The cited references are enclosed herewith.

Documents for which the supplied date of publication lists the year of publication without the month were published sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date, so that the particular month of publication is not in issue. Pursuant to §609 of the MPEP, it is understood that the month of publication is not required when the particular month of publication is not in issue.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), Applicants hereby certify that each item of the information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present statement, as evidenced by the enclosed search report dated **March 24, 2004** for European application No. EP 03024194.

Atty. Docket No. 10/690,347

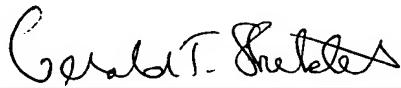
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. In light of the preceding certification, no fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, should any fees be deemed necessary (except payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any over payment to Welsh & Katz, Ltd. Account No. 23-0920/90839.

The cited document(s) disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the document(s) and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document(s) herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and document(s) recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application. The recitation herein of the art and document(s) is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

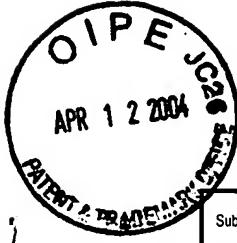


Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

Dated: April 8, 2004

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312-655-1500



APR 12 2004

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031
PTO/SB/08A & (04-03)
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Part 1 of 4 (Form 1615, 04-03, 0651-0031)

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheets

1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/690,347
Filing Date	October 21, 2003
First Named Inventor	Bertram Achtner
Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	90839

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appears	T ⁶
		Country Code ⁴ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 58202420	11/25/1983	Kino Seimitsu Kogyo KK		Abstract
		JP 59028121	02/14/1984	Canon, Inc.		Abstract
		JP 60057813	04/03/1985	Canon, Inc.		Abstract

OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST .3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST .16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.